

From: Allen Ashley
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 6:54am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I oppose the proposed settlement of the Microsoft anticompetitive lawsuit because I believe that settlement provides neither an adequate penalty for previous unlawful actions nor an assurance that such actions will not continue.

Microsoft will always be able to leverage its operating system dominance into an uncompetitive force in the applications software area. An adequate remedy for the illegal historical practices of Microsoft must either remove their dominance in the operating system, or disable their leverage in applications development.

Much of the ease-of-use features of the Microsoft operating systems come not from Microsoft, but from hardware vendors who must write driver software compatible with Microsoft. There is currently no motivation for these vendors to write drivers for alternative, less used operating systems.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my opposition to the proposed settlement.

My name is Allen Ashley (ashley@alumni.caltech.edu)